# Madura - South India - Jany 4 - 1842

To the members of the
"Princeton Theological Seminary"
Respected & Beloved Brethren -

At a late Session of the "Madura (American) Mission" I was requested to address you an Epistle on the Subject of the Heathen & your individual duty & privilege towards them - "A trite subject" some of you are ready to exclaim - I grant it - The theme is not one of the novelties of the current age It is old - It dates back almost 2000 years But though antiquated - common-place - oft discussed - worn out - thread bare, as some would say, is it the less interesting or important? - So far from that - does not each returning year deepen its interest & importance What - the worlds conversion to Jesus Christ - the Salvation of the Millions of Asia - Africa - Europe & the isles of the Sea - devoid of interest ~~& interest~~. deep & intense & glowing to a Christian & especially a Christian Minister! Oh. it cannot - cannot be! "Let the same mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus" - Judged by this brief but instructive & plain precept what must we think of the piety of that person whose feelings approximate those of indifference concerning the Heathen world? -

# A hint to the Reader - The name of our city is pronounced as if spelt Mad-ura

I leave it with him to answer who is conscious that he feels but little or no Sympathy with the Incarnate Son of God who left the bosom of His Father & praises of Heaven — who suffered & died that men — *all men* might have life. But, Beloved Brethren, I hope better things of you one & all — I am not willing to believe that *one* to whom this Epistle is addressed is a stranger to the *constraining* love that impelled Paul & his associates to their labours of mercy — or to the same principle in higher exercise that urged the world's Saviour to appear on earth — to "go about doing good" & at last to submit to crucifixion — I believe that you love your God — that you have sincerely laid your bodies & spirits — your talents & acquirements — your time & influence & all you *are* — or *hope* or *expect* to be on the altar whose you are by right of creation — redemption & sanctification & whom you are bound by considerations weighty as eternity & solemn as the grave to serve with all the strength you have or can command — I address you as Christians — as servants of Jehovah — as subjects of the Heavenly King — as declared

Disciples of Jesus Christ your Lord & Example — as Heirs of Heaven & I entreat you to bear with me while I plead with you in behalf immortal Souls now in danger of eternal destruction — It is not my purpose to address you at length on the general subject of the unevangelised nations of the earth — What more can you ask than you are now privileged to hear from your honoured Professors & from those of your own number whom you select from time to time to bring this subject to your view — — I wish to call your attention first & chiefly to that portion of the extensive field of Heathenism the Mission of which I am a member occupy — —

The city of Madura (the chief city in a District of the same name) is situated 289 miles S West from Madras & 70 miles inland from the Gulf of Manaar which separates the Island of Ceylon from the Indian Peninsular — The whole District contains a population of about two Millions & 500.000 Souls — the city in which I reside about 40.000 — The largest proportion of the Inhabitants are of the Hindoo Religion (worshippers of Vishnu &

Siva) - the second class as to numbers are the Mohammedans - the third Roman Catholics & the fourth - Protestant Christians - This latter class - alas! few in number & that paucity wd be painfully reduced, it is to be feared, were all to be brought to a fatal test - - We have stations at (1) Madura city - where are two Missionaries & a Physician - (2) Dindigue where are 2 stations a large town 40 Miles North from Madura (3) Terapoovanum - 12 miles East - where is one (4) Teramungalum 12 miles South where are 2 (5) Sevagunja. 26 Miles East where is one - During the past year we have had in operation 6 Boarding Schools (4 for Boys & 2 for girls) Whole No of Boarders 125 - Two English Schools containing 118 Pupils - Ninety five Tamil Day Schools with 3085 children of both sexes & of the Hindoo - Mohammedan & Roman Catholic religions - - Whole No under instruction 3328 - - The number may seem to you large - - We sd indeed be grateful that we have the privilege of educating such a body of youth in the truths of our holy Religion - - But what are these when compared with the much larger body who are going on in error sin & death — Leaving Madura city & journeying South East towards the Sea we arrive at Paramagoody a place of great size & importance where I visited not many months since five Heathen Schools all of which wd at once come under the Missionary's Superintendence were a servant of Truth Stationed there — But it is destitute — Who of you will come to man it? — Journeying still on we come to Ramnad within 8 miles of the Sea — once a place of great military importance & still crowded with Hindoos & Mohammedans — Not a Christian Teacher is there to guide the young & the adult to the cross of Jesus — Oh who of you will come & lift the Banner of the cross there? — Again leaving Madura & travelling 16 miles N E on the high road to Trichinopoly you reach Maloor where & in the villages immediately adjacent are hundreds of thousands who know not Him who is "the way — the truth & the life" — who of you will come & preach to them Christ & Him crucified? Again — leaving Madura city & journeying N. W. towards Dindigul you come to Soloovuntayu where crowds press out to meet us when we go among them with Books & Tracts for distribution - No one is there to instruct them in the things pertaining to the soul & eternity Will none of you come & occupy that post? - Leaving Dindigul & travelling 40 miles north we reach the large & populous town of Pulney - one of the most celebrated for its sanctity of Hindoo cities - Thousands crowd to that temple annually - & yet no one is there to meet them with the word of truth. Will not one of you come & shew them the path of life? - I fear that I weary you with this detail but I desire to fix your thoughts on some spot - some city or town & I beg you to consider what it is now is - what it should be, & what it can be if a Christian Teacher there locates himself & devotes to the interests of the people his freshest energies of mind & his most glowing affections of heart. - Calls for the establishment of Schools are constant - The way is open for bringing the whole District under Christian instruction - We need men & means - It is to be feared that a withholding of the latter has diverted the minds of many young men from the question of personal duty to the Heathen! I cannot - dare not excuse those who have allowed the Treasury of the Lord to become so nearly empty - but - Disciple of Jesus is it Christian to allow this temporary want of funds to decide a question fraught with results so deep - solemn - & enduring as this - The cause of Foreign Missions must go forward - Oh who would not seek the honour of aiding in its progress. - Beloved Friend - come to Madura city & I will cause your location in a spot where you may labour from month to month pleasantly & not (God granting his blessing) without success - You will meet with trials - the Tamil language is difficult - the customs of the people are unchristian - uncivilised - with strong traits of character to admire you will find many to detest - above all these idolatry is heartrending - - Amid all this, however, if your temperament is moderately equable - if your habits are those of a student - if your heart is in communion with Heaven - you will be happy - - I know what it is to address large audiences in America - I have experienced true pleasure in so doing - but greater far greater than that is the joy I have felt in preaching - even with a stammering tongue to an assembly of Idolaters - - Oh come & share with me & my associates this luxury. You will not regret the choice you made - You will not feel for "Native land" less - or wish less warmly - or entreat the Lord less sincerely for a blessing to rest upon her - - Far from it -

I intended to append to this Letter some few Suggestions for the guidance of those who have the Foreign Service in view – but I must defer till I send a Second Sheet –

With Sentiments of sincere respect & affection

I am yours truly E. D. W. Ward

To the Secretary of the
Society of Enquiry
Theological Semy
Princeton
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Care of
A. Alexander DD
Profr. of Theology

NEW YORK JUN 5

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Answered Nov 29. 1842.

My sincere respect & affection to your
honored Professors

I feel a deep interest in your Institution – For nearly three years I pursued my Studies there & I long to see the Seminary under the controal of a Foreign Missionary Spirit – I long to welcome to these Shores – & to this city one – yea many who are within those sacred walls – Listen to the cry sent from this dark land & come for the Salvation of lost men –